

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief, but important, summary of labor matters affecting labor, covering the industrial, legislative and judicial fields. It contains information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1926.

Truth is the highest thing a man can keep.—Chaucer.

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TRADE UNION FOES NEVER USE CLEAR-CUT TERMS

Psychologists and publicity men well know the value of popular figures of speech that have made statements and destroyed dynasties.

These forces assisted in fastening the "open shop" fraud on bewildered non-union workers. So-called "molders of public opinion" aided the trick by misrepresentation, patriotic appeals and jargon about liberty and the Constitution.

The clear reasoning of organized labor, finally triumphed and the public no longer accepted the "open shop." They know its purpose is to deny collective bargaining.

This has forced trade union foes to adopt a new policy. They present the company "union" with all the frenzied energy that marked their defense of the "open shop," and prior to that dis-

credited their right "to run their own business."

Now the workers are told that the company "union" is employee representation; that it is the modern substitute for the old "open shop." Again it is wrong concealed by an alluring term.

These terms have but one purpose—to confuse the issue of whether workers have the right to unite and select representatives to negotiate wages and work conditions.

Trade union foes dare not face this issue. If they answer "No," they run counter to the spirit of the age. If they answer "Yes," they surrender automatic control over employees.

This they will not do. They are as determined to hold this power as when they frankly discharged workers who joined a trade union.

Thus there are three periods in the

career of the trade union foe: First, open opposition; second, the "open shop," that professed to be unionist and non-unionist alike; third, alleged acceptance of collective bargaining by setting up a boss-controlled "union."

Let no organized worker believe the trade union foe is gradually coming to his way of thinking; that he is slowly accepting the principle of trade unionism.

This employer is more cunning than in the first and second stages, but he is as determined to maintain his autocratic control over the workers.

He merely shifts his method of attack. He is hopeful that the shadow of a principle will pass for the substance of his "union" and that the penetration of organized labor's ideals in his plant.

This employer sees another advantage to his company "union"—it does

not arouse such pronounced hostility, as did his open antagonism. His talk of employee representation has a pacific, rather than a warlike, tone.

The trade union foe thus hopes, by smooth talk, to maintain his opposition to collective bargaining. His new system also dispenses with costly spies in his plant. He can also escape censure by having his hand-picked "union" committee reject pleas for work improvements.

Organized workers should continue to expose the ancient trick of these employers who appeal to emotion, rather than reason.

There is one infallible test that should be applied to the company "union": Does it permit workers to unite and to select their own representatives?

This question can not be answered by platitudes.

High Wages Is Prosperity's Base; Favored Few Can't Hold Market

Ithaca, N. Y., April 24.—"If the market is limited to the needs of a few, and the masses of people are the victims of poverty, great social unrest is bound to exist," said Wm. Green, president of the A. F. of L., in an address at Cornell University.

The Progressive Wage Policy of the A. F. of L. He explained the basis of the latest declaration on the subject, which calls for an increase of real wages in proportion to the workers' increasing power of production.

"The merchant, the banker, the doctor, the lawyer, the land lord and sales people are all seriously affected by any wage reduction," said President Green. "It is easy to understand when the theory of wages is studied from this point of view why the incentive is incumbent upon society to favor high wages. Working people can buy manufactured articles when wages are high enough to permit them to buy freely. They can not when their purchasing power is curtailed. If wages have been decreased and the market has been raised to a ready market for his commodity."

ities. This can not be done if the market is limited to the needs of a few, and the masses of people are the victims of poverty, great social unrest is bound to exist," said Wm. Green, president of the A. F. of L., in an address at Cornell University.

Such a market can only be created by increasing the desire of the consuming masses for the necessities and luxuries of life and the things which tend to cultural and spiritual advancement. With this desire there must be created the ability to buy. This can be accomplished through the wide distribution of money, using the medium of high wages.

"If low wages meant prosperity, those countries where low wages prevail would be prosperous and their people would be contented. The most casual observation of the wretched slums of this reasoning. Where low wages prevail, the people are poverty stricken, many are unemployed and conditions are unsatisfactory. Where wages are high and the morale and the spirit of the workers have been raised, efficient wages are high enough to permit them to buy freely. They can not when their purchasing power is curtailed. If wages have been decreased and the market has been raised to a ready market for his commodity."

WORLD'S PAUPER-PAID WORKERS FAIL BEFORE SPEEDY MACHINES

Washington, April 24.—American textile workers, with high-speed modern machinery, can produce cotton cloth in the world, said Congressman Ayres.

Before the present tariff law was passed, he said, a woman operating 10 or 15 cotton looms could produce cotton cloth at such a low price that despite their pauper labor, India dealers bought these American goods. Ignoring this fact, the Kansas lawmaker said, textile barons secured tariff rates on cotton goods that average 40 per cent, under the plea of "protecting the American worker."

"Today," continued Mr. Ayres, "an operator runs on an average of 24 looms, and information from the United Textile Workers of America shows that there has been such an increase of production within the past three or four years and thereby a lessening of labor costs per unit of production, and further, with a 10 per cent wage reduction since 1923, that the entire labor cost per unit of production is but 11 cents per yard."

"It might be interesting to call your attention to the fact that at the present time, 1926, Fall River mills are paying wages of 45 cents per cut of 47 yards of prime cloth, while in England, where the production is 11 cents per cut of 47 yards of the same kind of cloth. This is a fair illustration of how these special interests protect American labor against the much-talked-of sweatshop pauper labor of Europe."

"FRAME-UP" WITNESS HAS STRONG SUPPORT

Washington, April 24.—Attorney General Sargent refused to tell a senate committee whether the department of justice will prosecute George B. Hayes, New York lawyer for perjury in the government's attempt to convict Senator Wheeler last year.

Hayes swore he never saw Wheeler until the morning after the latter's election to the senate, offered, in a New York hotel, to divide fees with him for practicing before the department of the interior. Wheeler claimed, according to Hayes, that he could not be openly connected with the case because he is a Jew.

The Montana jury acquitted Wheeler on the first ballot, and the senate waived his impeachment. If the department of justice intends to prosecute Hayes, Sargent gave the committee no satisfaction. He said he has had two other persons sustaining Hayes' testimony. The names of these persons were refused.

The attorney general was careful to let it be known that this information was in the form of "data" and was not a return to Treasury officials told the committee that Hayes has paid no income tax for four years, and that the federal government owes \$292,191.33.

While the senate committee was listening to the statements by government officials several hundred citizens gave a dinner in this city to Senator Wheeler. The dinner was given by the Citizens Committee for the Defense of the Senator. The dinner was under the auspices of the Wheeler Defense Committee. The dinner was attended by a large number of people from all walks of life were present, and scores of messages were read.

Speakers denounced the Wheeler frame-up and congratulated the defense "for its triumph for justice over the department of justice."

Ship Owners' Employment Offices Face Extinction Under Court Rule

Washington, April 24.—The United States supreme court has ordered the ship owners' employment offices to send up the record in the case of Anderson versus ship owners. The court's action may result in smashing the ship owners' employment offices. Under this system a seaman can not be employed until he has been approved by one of these agencies.

Ship lawyers for the seamen in San Francisco employed Anderson, who was not the ship owner's employment office. The ship owner's employment office refused to discharge the seaman under the court rule.

The International Seamen's union carried the case to the courts on the ground that the ship owners' employment office is a violation of the interstate commerce law. The ship owners' employment office is a violation of the interstate commerce law. The ship owners' employment office is a violation of the interstate commerce law.

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Machinists Favor Co-Op. Garages Where Employers Oppose Union

New York, April 24.—The National Automobile Chamber of Commerce calls on all affiliates to oppose the International Association of Machinists' campaign to organize mechanics and service station workers. The workers declare they will start co-operative garages.

The chamber announces that the matter was discussed at "our membership meeting," and that it was the unanimous opinion, "very positively expressed," that the anti-union shop must be maintained.

The reasons are the ancient Citizens' Alliance cry of limitation of competition. Every man has a right to his own business. The chamber of commerce calls on all affiliates to oppose the International Association of Machinists' campaign to organize mechanics and service station workers. The workers declare they will start co-operative garages.

forwarded copies of an anti-union declaration to every man who had been in the chamber of commerce to officers and members of the chamber of commerce. The chamber of commerce calls on all affiliates to oppose the International Association of Machinists' campaign to organize mechanics and service station workers. The workers declare they will start co-operative garages.

REDUCED MINE WAGES CAN'T ADJUST INDUSTRY

West Frankfort, Ill., April 24.—John I. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, writes a sharp denials to the Daily American of the city, that he favors a revision of the Jacksonville bituminous wage agreement.

The Daily American's statement was copied from Black Diamond, a coal trade organ.

The claim of certain operators to reduce wages to the non-union level, is no solution for ill-fated coal industry, said President Lewis.

"Miners of the non-union areas are degraded and pauperized, and it would in no sense increase the demand, save the production of the Jacksonville bituminous wage agreement."

"Every contract of coal contains a stipulation that in the event of a wage reduction the advance will be passed on by the coal operator to the purchaser of the coal. The coal operator would not be benefited by lower wages, he would be compelled to lower the price of his contract fuel to every customer."

"The cheapening of coal as a result of fuel is no incentive for consumers to burn greater quantities of coal, as well as housewives, who will only purchase the cheap minimum amount with which they can get along in the price."

"In view of these facts, and other conditions too numerous to mention in this communication, the mine workers' organization does not propose to agree to a wage reduction."

P. O. CLERKS' GAINS BEGAN WITH PAPER

Washington, April 24.—Progress by the National Federation of Post Office Clerks, with the establishment of the Union Postal Clerk, said Thomas W. Flaherty, editor of the clerks' official magazine for the past several years.

In discussing the twenty-third anniversary of the Union Postal Clerk, he said that the postal clerk's gains began with the paper.

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WORKERS' WAR WAGES BEHIND LIVING COST

Washington, April 24.—During the war labor received relatively less wages than before, said Edgar Wallace, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, in opposing the Capper-Johnson bill before a congressional committee.

The bill proposed to restrict the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively. Wallace said that the war wages were not enough to cover the cost of living. In 1918 the wage rate had increased 100 per cent, but the cost of living had increased 142.4. In 1918 the wage rate had increased 100 per cent, but the cost of living had increased 142.4.

PRISON LABOR TRUST BROKEN IN KENTUCKY

Frankfort, Ky., April 24.—Governor Fields has signed a bill which provides that convicts may be employed upon the roads and bridges of the state under supervision of the State Highway Commission. The commission shall pay not less than \$2 per day for each prisoner employed, and not less than 25 per cent or more than 50 per cent of this money shall be paid to the contractor.

The bill was signed by Governor Fields. The bill was signed by Governor Fields. The bill was signed by Governor Fields.

BRITAIN IS WORRIED OVER COAL INDUSTRY NATIONAL MENACE

London, England, April 24.—The British coal wage agreement expires May 1, and the nation is worried.

The government is worried by the government providing a subsidy to enable coal owners to meet the cost of the coal. The government is worried by the government providing a subsidy to enable coal owners to meet the cost of the coal.

Violations of law are so apparent that they quickly arouse the moral indignation of the public. The government is worried by the government providing a subsidy to enable coal owners to meet the cost of the coal. The government is worried by the government providing a subsidy to enable coal owners to meet the cost of the coal.

DRIVE FOR COSSACKS IS STARTED IN OHIO

Columbus, Ohio, April 24.—Cossack advocates are preparing to make their usual drive in the state. It is proposed to use \$200,000 to maintain two troops.

"Slips and snafus in the peace and protect the farmers. This will average one cossack per more than 200 square miles of territory in this state."

CAN EXTEND SAFETY BY ACCIDENT PREVENTION

Washington, April 24.—Further investigation into the frequency of accidents from machinery would do much to help the work of prevention, in the opinion of E. H. Stewart, director of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"For more than a generation, the Bureau of Labor Statistics has been working with the idea that all accidents resulted from the lack of machine guards," said Mr. Stewart.

"It is not that simple, but the fact is that today, so far as we are able to determine from the methods of accident reporting, the majority of accidents are the result of poorly guarded machinery."

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CHILDREN IN CANNEXES

Harrisburg, Pa., April 24.—A study by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry has shown that 14 plants operated labor camps for boys, from 1914 to 1924.

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Faulty Management Means Low Wages

By H. J. JAMES J. DAVIS
United States Secretary of Labor

No industry should exist in America that does not reward its earner with a wage sufficient to maintain the American standard. It is not a question of law. It is a question of justice, and of fair and competent management.

The American worker is so willing and trained to work and so ready to accept a wage that is described in the "grave" that it is not for the moment that the American worker can stand in the way of a good wage.—(Speech before the annual convention of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers.)

STRIKE PROBE FAVORED BY SENATOR SHIPSTEAD

Washington, April 24.—A senate committee has authorized a probe into the strike of the Western miners and firemen on the Western Maryland railroad. The committee was authorized by Senator Shipstead.

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The president's disapproved proposals to penalize citizens who fail to vote. The committee was authorized by Senator Shipstead. The committee was authorized by Senator Shipstead.

FEDERAL WORKERS URGE PENSION BILL PASSAGE

New York, April 24.—Passage of the Lehigh retirement bill for civil service employees, which has been passed by the senate, was urged by federal employees in this city. These workers urged the passage of the bill.

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WIT COST CONSUMERS

Indianapolis, April 24.—The executive committee of the Indiana Manufacturers' Association has decided to support the bill for the payment of witness fees to witnesses in civil cases.

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WORKERS PRODUCE MORE

Washington, April 24.—Railway employees in the United States produced 31 tons of freight and 44 passengers on the average in 1925, compared with 26 tons of freight and 31 passengers in 1924. These figures have been issued by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

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SHUN CEDAR RAPIDS

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, April 24.—Organized labor warned against a strike in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where a labor scarcity is the city.

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CONCRETE BODIES STRIKE

Washington, April 24.—Concrete bodies in the nation's capital have joined the strike of the American Federation of Labor. The strike is a protest against the government's wage policy.

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